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OUTERWORLD SCANS

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IT'S AS I SAID BEFORE, YOU'LL BE SPLITTING INTO PAIRS FOR THE TEAM BATTLE.

YOUR OPPONENTS ARE RANDOMLY SELECTED. I'VE SENT THEIR DETAILS TO YOUR BADGES.

AFTER YOU'VE FOUND OUT WHO YOUR OPPONENTS ARE, PLEASE GO TO YOUR ASSIGNED COMBAT AREAS.

HUH? THIS IS A BIT STRANGE...

MINE IS THE SAME,

INSTRUCTOR YURUMEDA MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.

THERE ISN'T ANY DATA ON OUR OP-PONENTS.

SHELTIS AND MONICA HAVE PAIRED UP FOR THE TEAM BATTLE!

8 Do you want to be sucked dry by me as well?

I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT IT'LL BE DECIDED BY ME.

FOLLOW ME, THIS WAY.

NO...

WE HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN THE DETAILS ON OUR OPPONENTS YET...

HEY,

WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU DOING STILL MESSING AROUND HERE.

THIS PLACE IS...

WHAT'RE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?

YOUR OPPONENTS ARE ALREADY HERE, WAITING.

THE GUY WEARING A JACKET OVER THERE WITH A PAIR OF PISTOLS IS JIN.

Jin <Official Guard>
Long range combatant /
Combat style
[Dual Gunner]

THE GIRL ON THE SIDE OVER THERE IS ISSHA.

Issha <Official Guard>
Mid-range combatant /
Combat style
[Puppeteer]

THEY'RE GOING TO BE YOUR OPPONENTS THIS TIME.

FUTUREWORLD SCANS

MONICA?

INSTRUCTOR YURUMEDA, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

NEVERTHE-LESS, THEY ARE TENKETSU PALACE <SOPHIA>'S OFFICIAL GUARDIANS.

The Official Guards.

THEY AREN'T NORMAL CADETS. THEY'RE THE ONES WHO'VE PREVAILED THROUGH STRICT TRAINING AND HARSH COMPETI-TION.

I'VE SEEN THESE TWO BEFORE,

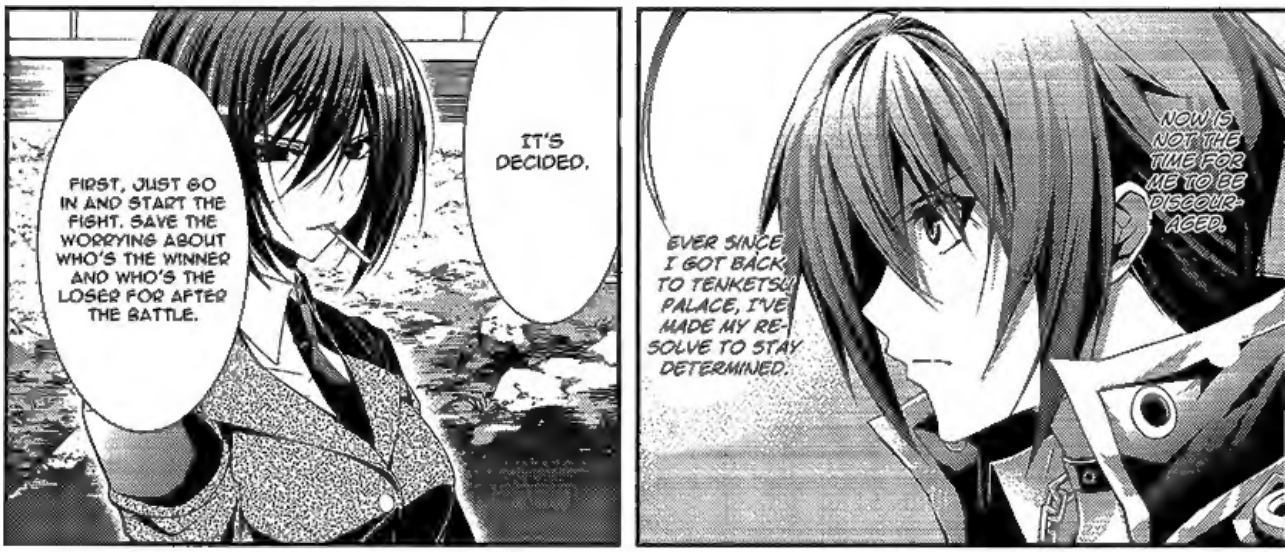
IT'S FINE, LET'S GET STARTED.

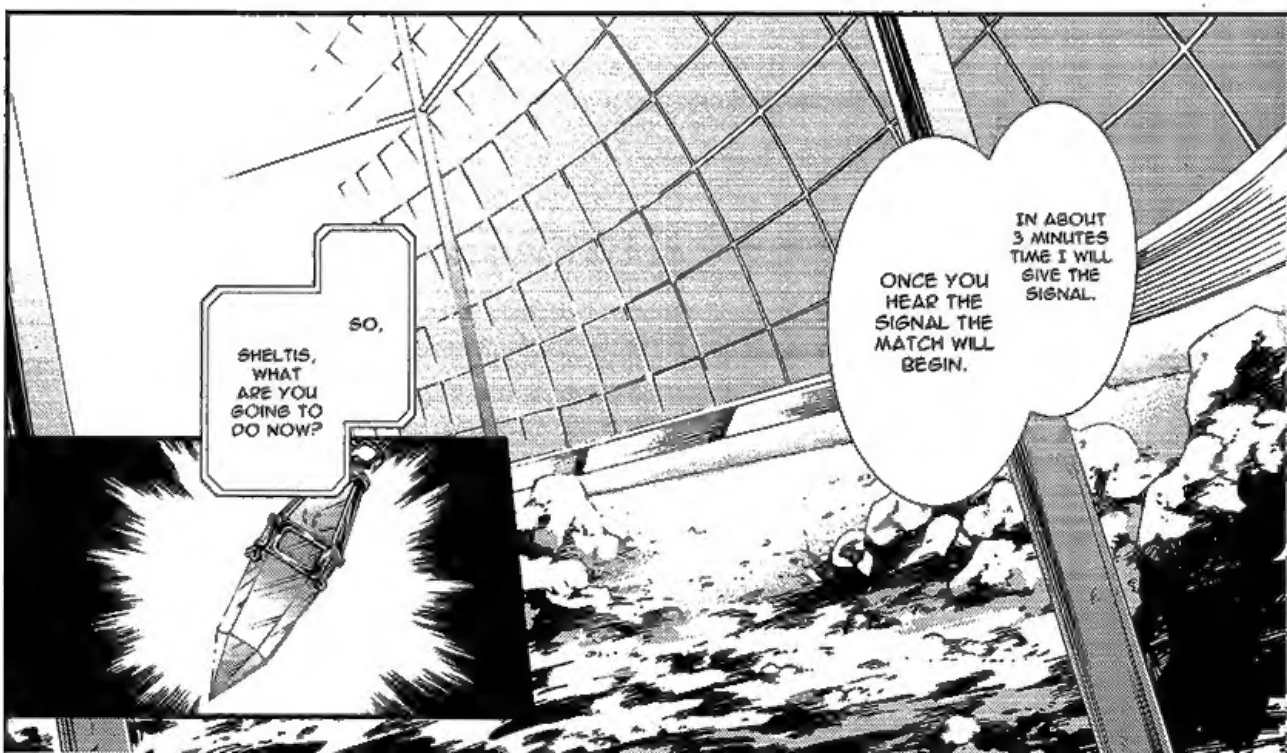
IT'S NOT THAT... IT'S JUST THAT THE GAP IN STRENGTH BETWEEN US IS FAR TOO WIDE.

STARTING TO FEEL SCARED NOW, ARE WE?

OFFICIAL GUARDS...

IN ORDER FOR US TO REACH THERE, WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE OPPONENTS THAT STAND BEFORE US.
WE JUST HAVE TO SET OUR GOAL TO BE A CUT ABOVE THE OFFICIALS GUARDS.
I DON'T THINK YOUR CHANCES ARE ZERO.
Do you really think we stand a chance?
What!?
HEH

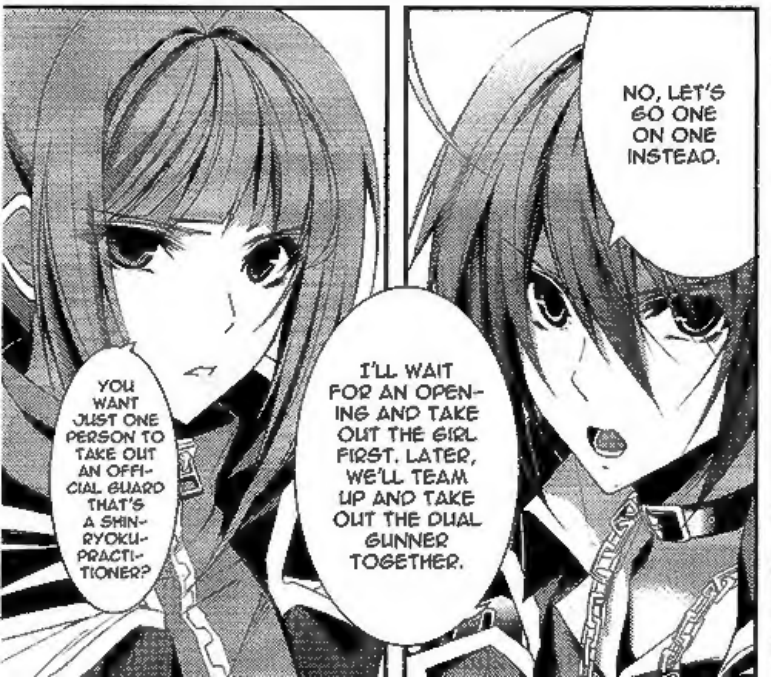

FIRST, JUST GO IN AND START THE FIGHT. SAVE THE WORRYING ABOUT WHO'S THE WINNER AND WHO'S THE LOSER FOR AFTER THE BATTLE.
IT'S DECIDED.
EVER SINCE I GOT BACK TO TENKETSU PALACE, I'VE MADE MY RESOLVE TO STAY DETERMINED.
NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR ME TO BE DISCOURAGED.


SO, SHELTIS, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
ONCE YOU HEAR THE SIGNAL THE MATCH WILL BEGIN.
IN ABOUT 3 MINUTES TIME I WILL GIVE THE SIGNAL.

THOSE TWO OVER THERE ARE BOTH RANGED FIGHTERS WITH ACCESS TO A DUAL GUNNER.
WE NEED TO MAKE THIS FIGHT CLOSE RANGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE... BUT STILL, THERE'S A CHANCE WE'LL BE DEFEATED BEFORE WE CAN EVEN DO ANYTHING.

WELL... ACTUALLY, EVEN WITHIN THE OFFICIAL GUARDS SHE'S A VERY WELL KNOWN SHINRYOKU-PRACTI-TIONER.
THE RANGE OF CONTROL ON HER PUP-PETS SHOULD BE MID-RANGE.

BUT ISSHA WON'T ALLOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN.
YOU KNOW HER?


NO, LET'S GO ONE ON ONE INSTEAD.
I'LL WAIT FOR AN OPEN-ING AND TAKE OUT THE GIRL FIRST. LATER, WE'LL TEAM UP AND TAKE OUT THE DUAL GUNNER TOGETHER.
YOU WANT JUST ONE PERSON TO TAKE OUT AN OFFI-CIAL GUARD THAT'S A SHIN-RYOKU-PRACTI-TIONER?

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, WE SHOULD TAKE OUT THE MID-RANGE FIGHTER
BEFORE ATTEMPT-ING TO GET CLOSE TO THE LONG-RANGE FIGHTER WITH A DUAL GUNNER.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THAT?
SHOULD WE TEAM UP AND TAKE HER OUT FIRST?

START!
BANG
BANG
And,
MONICA, BEFORE I FINISH MY MATCH, TRY TO GET THE DUAL GUNNER'S ATTENTION.

INFLATE
DISCHARGE

ROAR
!!
STARTLED
BOOM

CRUMBLE
SHELTIS, WATCH OUT FOR...
THE IRON ORBS THAT SHE'S RELEASING, THEY WEIGH MORE THAN 50 KILOGRAMS EACH
SHE'S APPLIED HER OWN SHINRYOKU INTO EACH OF THE IRON ORBS, THUS CREATING [PUPPETS]
GIVING HER THE ABILITY TO REMOTELY CONTROL THEM FROM A DISTANCE
INFLATE---
SHE'S PROTECTED FROM HER ENEMIES BY UTILIZING THE EXCEEDINGLY HEAVY IRON ORBS AND PRESSURIZED POTENTIAL ENERGY

SHINRYOKU-
PRACTITIONER
OFFICIAL
GUARD---
PUPPE-
TEER!
THE
SECOND
ORB'S
COMING!
DIS-
CHARGE
HWOOO

BOOM
BOOM
SHROOOOOOOM
THE ORBS WON'T STOP COMING AFTER ME!
TRACE

IMPOSSI-
BLE!?

DA

SH

SLICE

SLICE

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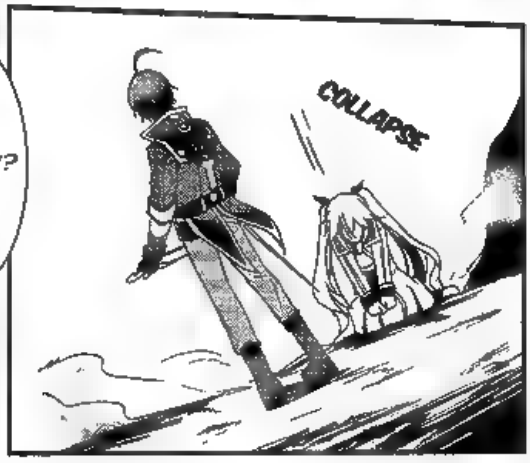
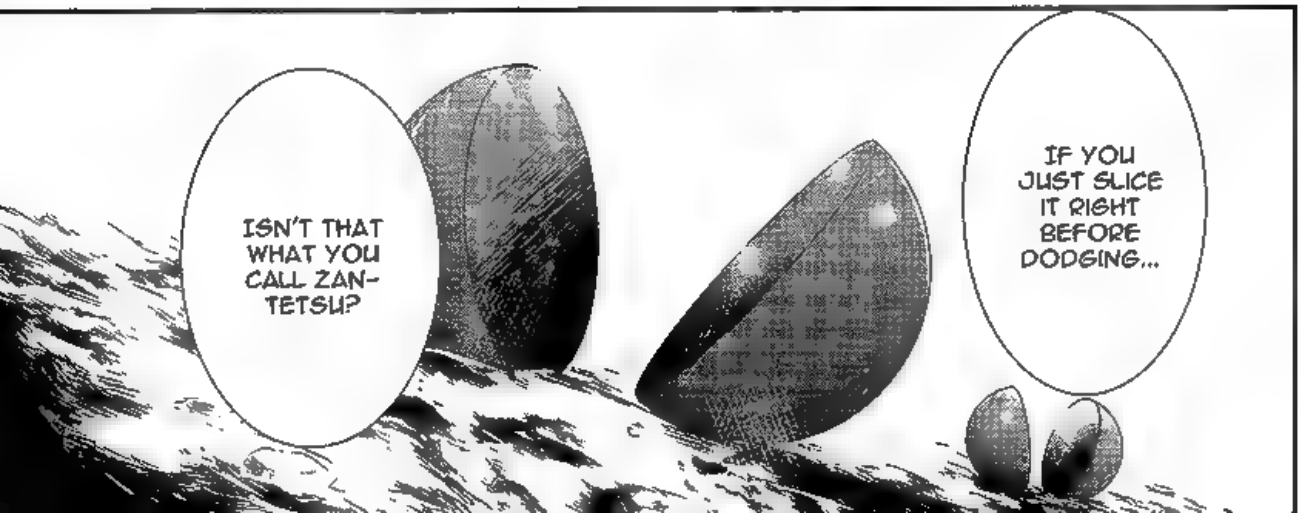
ENGAGE
Sfx: Whirl
MY PUP-PETS...
!?
THEY'RE NOT MOVING!

NOTH-
ING..
REVELATION

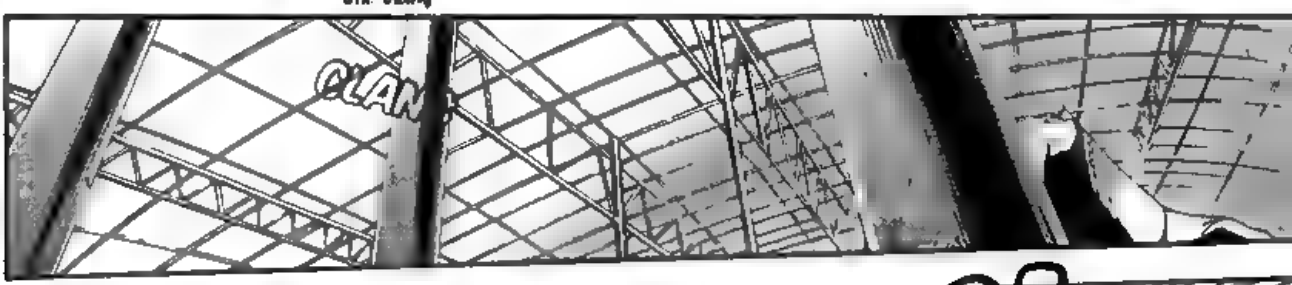
WHY AREN'T MY PUPPETS MOVING..... WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM?
W-WHY?

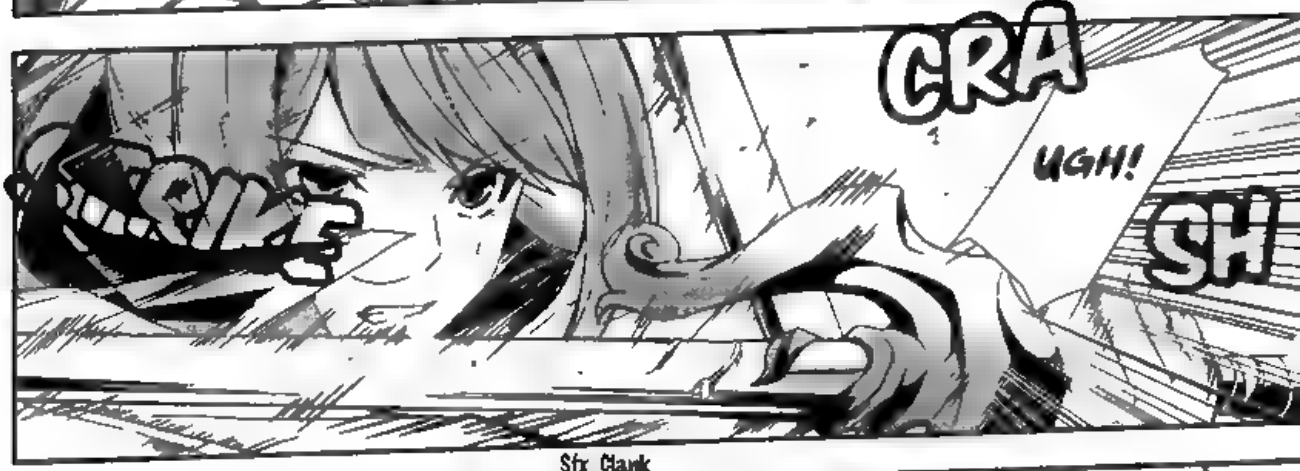

COLLAPSE


ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU CALL ZAN-TETSU?
IF YOU JUST SLICE IT RIGHT BEFORE DODGING...

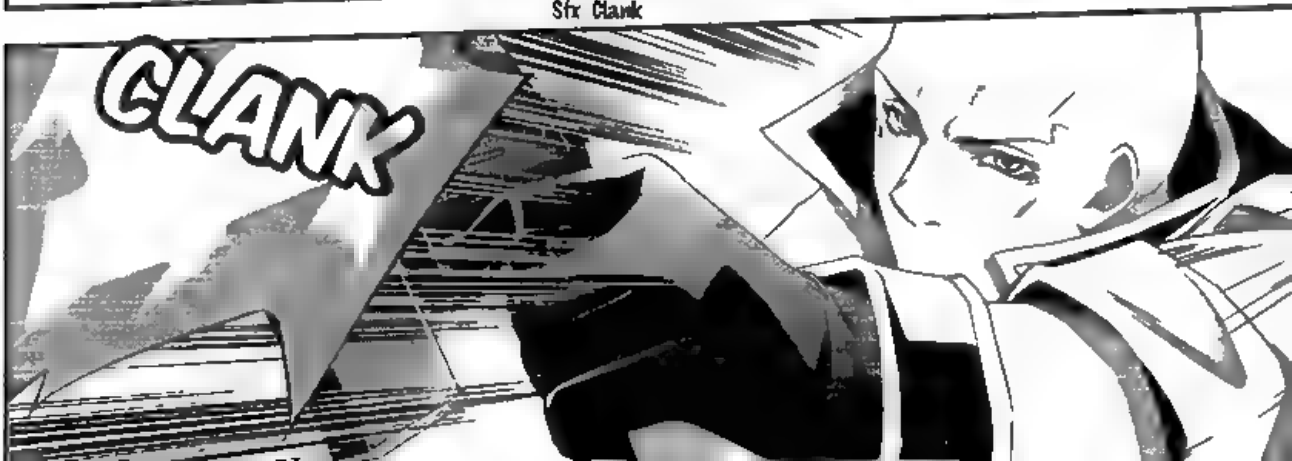
.....
There are so many reasons for me being here.
OR COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN EXE-CUTIVE GUARD OR AN UPPER CLASS GUARD OF SOME SORT?
ARE YOU REALLY JUST A NORMAL CADET?
How come... it has be-come like this?

Sfx: Clang





Sfx: Clank



HE'S REALLY STRONG!
SUCH BRILLIANT SKILLS AND POWERFUL SHOTS.
HIS FORM AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES ARE EXCELLENT AS WELL.
EVEN IF I TRIED TO CLOSE IN ON HIM, HE'S NOT GIVING ME ANY OPENINGS AT ALL!
This is the true level of the official guardians, the official Guards
BANG
BANG
BANG
They're on a totally different level!
BANG!

URK
UGH!
MONICA!!
!
SUDDENLY APPEARS

So Issha has been defeated.
WHOOSH
THAT GUY JIN HAS EXCELLENT PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES.
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, SHELTIS?
HIS MOVEMENTS ARE VERY PRECISE, HE'S NOT SHOWING ANY OPENINGS OR ALLOWING SIDE ATTACKS
YOU HAVE TO COME UP WITH A WAY TO SHORTEN THE DISTANCE SOON OR ELSE---

LEM!
NO
PROB
He cast both his swords at the same time—!?

He carried out a long range attack by throwing both his swords.
IMPACT
Although this is a very remarkable move---
CLENCH!
It has left the current you without any weapons--
You are now just an open target---

THUD
FALLS OVER
THIS IS FOR SETTING ME IN THE AMBUSHES!

HM

I'LL OVER-LOOK YOUR DECEPTIVE-NESS FROM THE BEGIN-NING OF THE BATTLE

CRUNCH

THROWING YOUR SWORDS TO GAIN THE ATTENTION OF THE ENEMY WHILE THE OTHER STRIKES HIM FROM BEHIND CAN BE CONSIDERED AN ACCEPTABLE STRATEGY

HEH HEH, SHELTIS YOU REALLY SHOULD LEARN TO USE YOUR BRAIN MORE OFTEN.

IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE TIMES WHEN I TEAMED UP WITH LEIFIN WE'D ANNI-HILATE WITHOUT ONE ANOTHER AND DO OUR OWN

BUT I'VE NEVER WORKED IN A TEAM LIKE THIS BEFORE

Str Tremble Tremble

Str Ho Ho Ho

AREN'T YOUR FANTASIES GOING A BIT OVER-BOARD!?

Or should I whip you until it gets through that thick skull of yours

At first I planned for the both of you to be utterly defeated so that I could punish you in whatever way I wanted

HURRY AND STAND UP NOW. HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO KEEP ME WAITING?

BUT, I GUESS IT FAILED

OH?

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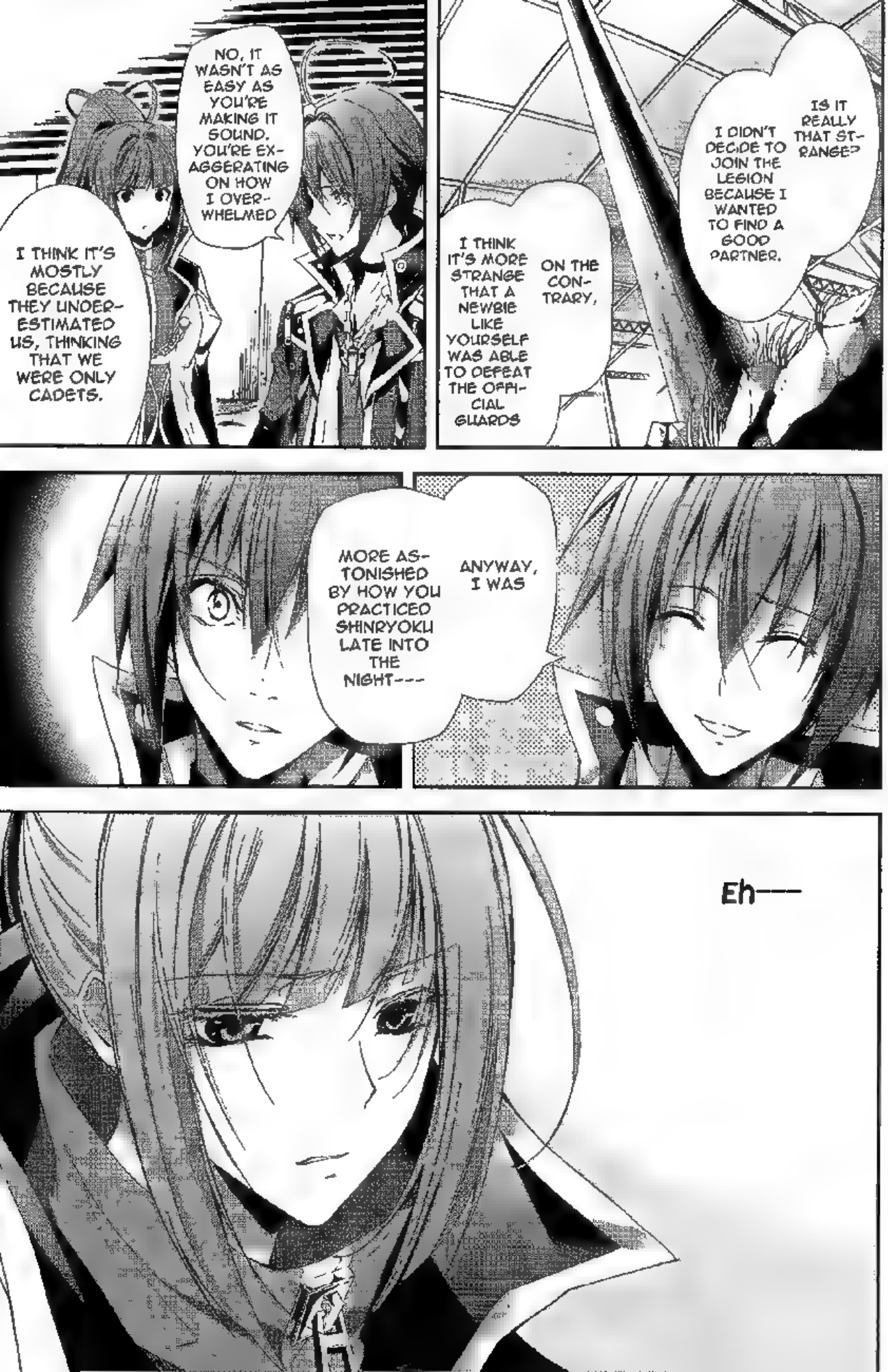
IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT I COULD PARTICIPATE IN TODAY'S TRAINING
MONICA, THANK YOU
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE SO CASUAL ABOUT THIS...
DIS-MISSED
FORGET IT, JUST USE THE REST OF THE TIME TODAY TO DO SOME SELF-TRAINING.
IGNORES STEP STEP STEP STEP
ISSHA AND JIN, THE TWO OF YOU MAY GO BACK AS WELL.
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
BUT...
BUT... BUT...

NO...
IT'S JUST THAT I...
THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT I'VE TEAMED UP WITH SOME-ONE...
AND WON.
OF COURSE...
IN THE END I KNOW IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOUR RE-MARKABLE SKILLS THAT WE GOT THE RESULTS WE DID.

I JUST NEVER THO-UGHT...
THAT WE'D BE ABLE TO WIN... WOW.
THE FIRST TIME?
SINCE BECOMING A CADET THIS IS HER FIRST VIC-TORY, BUT STILL, THIS IS A BIT---


NO, IT WASN'T AS EASY AS YOU'RE MAKING IT SOUND. YOU'RE EXAGGERATING ON HOW I OVERWHELMED
I THINK IT'S MOSTLY BECAUSE THEY UNDERESTIMATED US, THINKING THAT WE WERE ONLY CADETS.
IS IT REALLY THAT STRANGE?
I DIDN'T DECIDE TO JOIN THE LEGION BECAUSE I WANTED TO FIND A GOOD PARTNER.
ON THE CONTRARY,
I THINK IT'S MORE STRANGE THAT A NEWBIE LIKE YOURSELF WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT THE OFFICIAL GUARDS
ANYWAY, I WAS
MORE ASTONISHED BY HOW YOU PRACTICED SHINRYOKU LATE INTO THE NIGHT---
Eh——

DON'T FOLLOW ME!!
YOU... WERE WATCH-ING ME?
UM, THAT WAS... MONI-CA...
TRAIN-ING IS ALREADY OVER NOW.
I'M... GOING BACK TO REST FIRST.

LEON... SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR MEDITATION.
WHAT IS IT, SYUN-REI?
THE MISSION THAT QUEEN SAHALA HAS ENTRUSTED YOU WITH,
THE DEADLINE IS APPROACHING SOON.
EH...
WHICH MISSION ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
[TO ENSURE SECRECY--- THE UNIT HAS DECIDED ON A NEED TO KNOW BASIS, EXCEPT FOR SEN'NENSHI LEON---
IF NEEDED, ONE MORE PERSON CAN JOIN WITH TWO BEING THE ABSOLUTE LIMIT.]
LEON, DO YOU HAVE ANYONE IN MIND?
FROM THE MISSION'S SUMMARY, WE'LL NEED SOMEONE FROM THE LOWER RANKS OF TENKETSU PALACE SOPHIA
ALSO, THAT PERSON MUST BE ABLE TO KEEP A SECRET, SENTENTIOUS AND STRONG---
THEN...

THERE IS PROBABLY ONLY ONE PERSON.

The person that can meet such harsh conditions...

Has a storm started to brew in the relationship between Sheltis and Monica...?

Furthermore, Leon has started on his secret mission!

8 END

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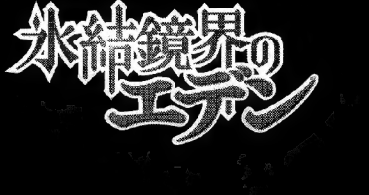
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